



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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## **Inmates Facing Criminal Charges after Assault Sends Three North Branch Correctional Officers To the Hospital**

TOWSON, MD (December 1, 2008)---Three correctional officers from North Branch Correctional Institution were treated and released from the hospital on Saturday, after being assaulted by inmates in the courtyard of the maximum-security prison. One officer suffered facial injuries; a second injured his elbow; and the third officer had an abrasion on his face. All three officers were treated and released from Memorial Hospital within hours.

The incident began around 1 p.m. as general population inmates returned to their housing unit from outside courtyard recreation when one officer was attacked. Several officers immediately responded after seeing the incident on surveillance cameras. At that point several inmates had become involved.

While two of the responding officers were also assaulted, the NBCI correctional staff worked aggressively and professionally to bring the situation under control as quickly as it began. Their quick action was integral to preventing more serious injury to their colleagues.

The safety and security of staff is paramount for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. By putting an emphasis on continuous training throughout a correctional officer's career, our institutions have the ability to gain control and keep staff safe when incidents like this occur.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Internal Investigative Unit (IIU) is the lead investigating agency, and will pursue criminal charges against as many as five inmates. IIU will work with the Allegany County State's Attorney to build a case against any inmates identified as suspects. The inmates involved are also facing administrative sanctions from the Division of Correction. At this time, the motive for the assault is unclear. The investigation is continuing.

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